Chapter Five Reflection

EDC 102

While reading Chapter five, I chose two philosophies that I really enjoyed. While reflecting on my years in junior high and high school itself, I focused on the teachers that really deserved their jobs because they taught well and knew how to handle both students and materials. One of them was Humanism. Humanism is the educational philosophy that is concerned with enhancing the innate goodness of the individual. It says that people are born free but are enslaved through institutions over time. That is correct due to the rules that institutions make, that most people disagree with; I wouldn’t necessarily define it as “enslaved”. This is crucial in teaching because you want to reward the children for even trying when there are some students that do nothing at all. It shows that students are on the right track in what they retain from school. Although it rejects group-work, it does help express the students’ individualism which is very important for a student to enhance their self-learning. I chose this philosophy because of Rousseu who was the Father of Romanticism who stated that children were not born as a blank slate but purposely created with certain, meaningful qualities and tendencies. I also liked how Humanists believe that students learn better when they are active and are able to make their own choices. The information the students learn doesn’t matter on the topic, but on the environment they’re in and I agree. If a student is in a bad environment, it’ll be harder for them to concentrate or learn anything that is being given to them. Another philosophy that I agreed with and liked was constructivism. It kind of is the opposite of humanism because it is the educational philosophy that emphasizes personal meaning intertwined with hands-on learning. I believe this is an important philosophy because hands on activities help student create their own frames of thought using their hands. Solving problems and making sense of it is important and can work better through hands on activities. Constructivism also emphasizes the concept of the teacher giving questions and the students using their brains to figure it out themselves, rather than the teachers lecturing the kids and quizzing them on it without them actually knowing if the students are ready/ know the material. These two educational philosophies go hand in hand because they both are student learning philosophies. I believe that student learning is more important because if the student doesn’t try, there is no way in getting them to do or learn anything. It’s their own will power that gets the work done, not just teachers saying, “Get your work done”. Students are held responsible for themselves always; they should be the ones to say that work needs to get done in order to have a brighter future.